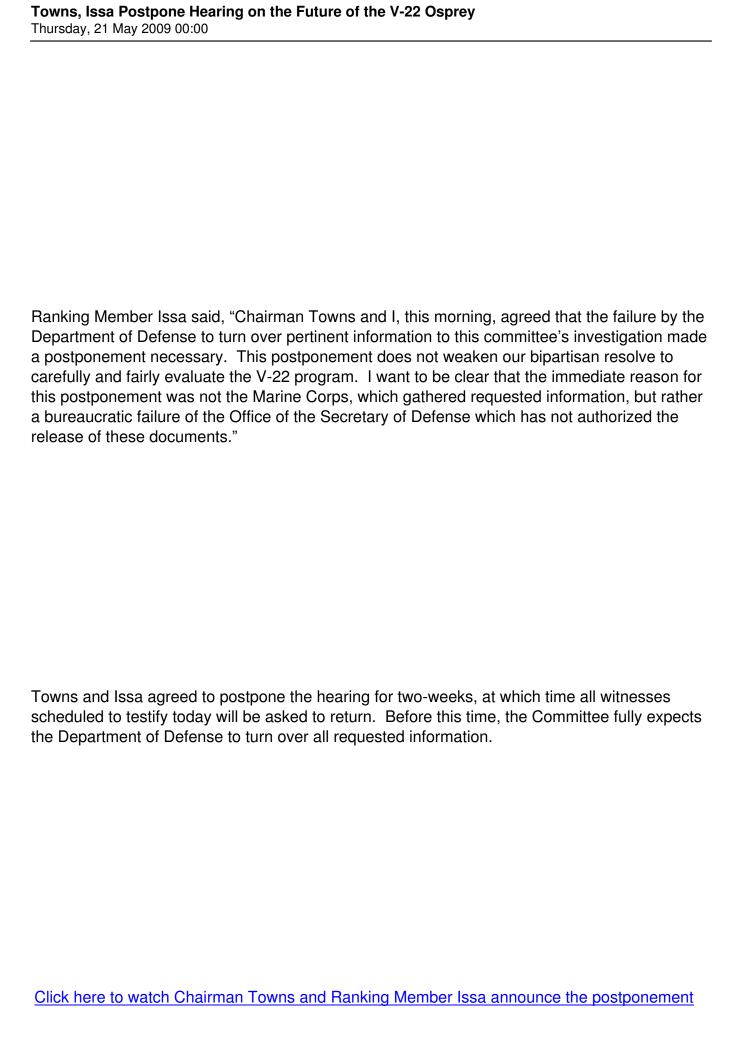


In a letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates dated May 5, 2009, Chairman Towns requested two reports on the performance of the Osprey in Iraq, called "Lessons and Observations" and a list of all V-22 Ospreys acquired by the Defense Department, including their current locations and flight status. The Defense Department did not meet the Osprey document request by the letter's stated deadline of May 13, 2009, and has yet to deliver the documents. Chairman Towns clearly stated during his opening remarks that if the Defense Department does not fulfill the Committee's request he is willing to compel the Department's compliance.

"I intend to conduct a thorough investigation of the Osprey, not just an investigation of the information that the Defense Department wants us to see. The American people deserve to know that this \$100 million aircraft is working as advertised and does the best job of protecting our troops and helping them accomplish their missions," said Chairman Towns. "Failing to provide us with important information about the Osprey's status is simply unacceptable. With the support of Mr. Issa, the Ranking Member, we will pursue this investigation even harder than we have so far."



of today's hearing.